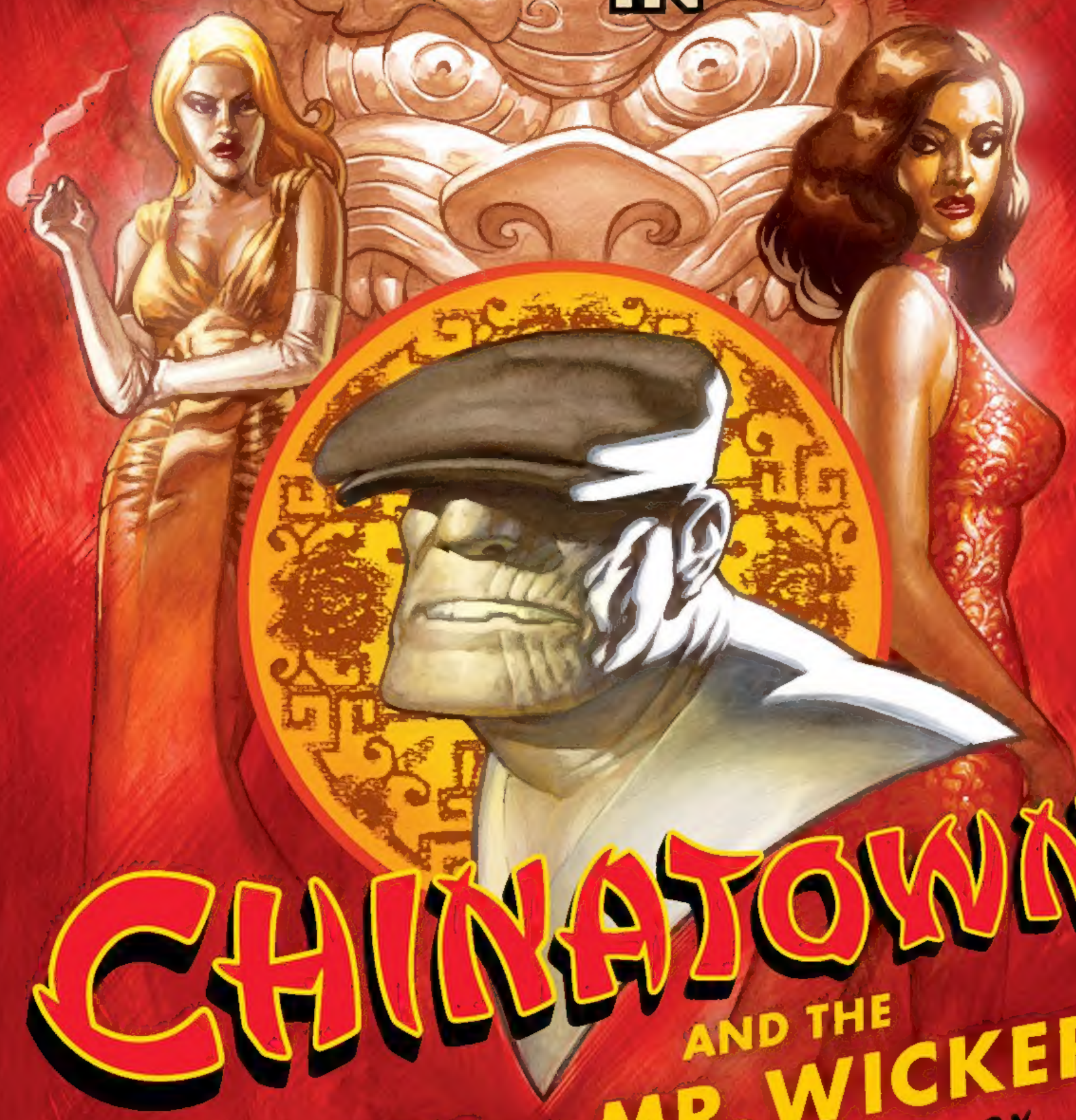
THE GOON™

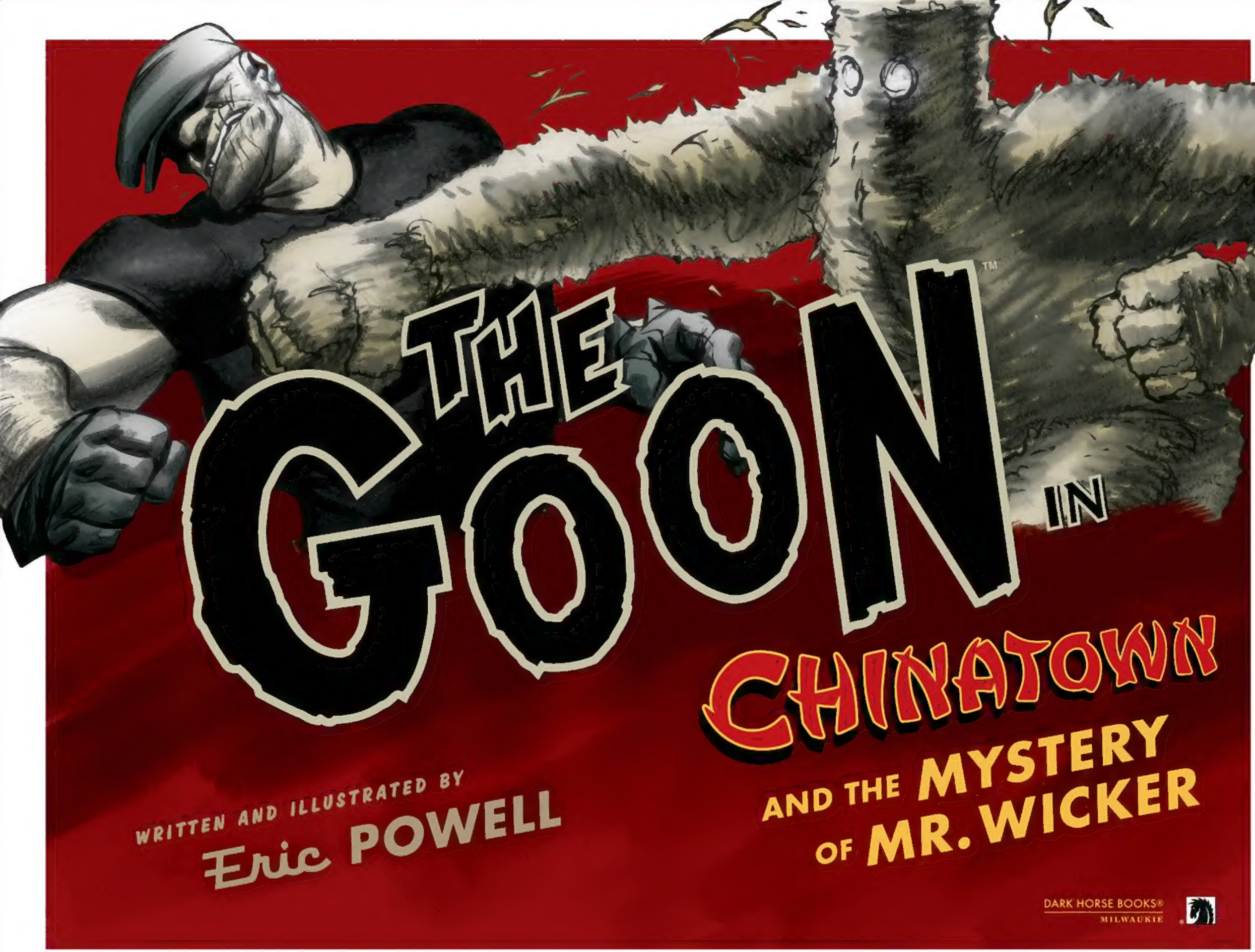
IN



CHINATOWN AND THE MYSTERY OF MR. WICKER

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY

Eric POWELL


THE GOON™ IN
CHINATOWN
AND THE MYSTERY OF MR. WICKER
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY
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MILWAUKIE

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THE GOON™: CHINATOWN AND THE MYSTERY OF MR. WICKER

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INTRODUCTION

I admit it—I came to this party late. *Chinatown and the Mystery of Mr. Wicker* was—regrettably—my introduction to *The Goon* and the incredible world created by Eric Powell. I thank Tim Miller—who snapped me out of my Goonless existence when I was looking for material to possibly make into an animated feature, and he suggested I peruse a copy he had (suspiciously) nearby. Of course I marveled at the characters and was smitten with the *mise en scenè*, but it was the language—that uncategorizable, unlikely *Dead End Kids Meet Abbott and Costello Meet the Mummies* Powellian patois—that absolutely hooked me. If this is your first time, you are in for a treat—if not, you already know how lucky you are.

David Fincher, June 2009
filmmaker

• • •

The completion of and reaction to this book have been the most rewarding experiences I have had working in comics. The tragic story of Goon's past has been tumbling around in my head for so long that I began to wonder if I would ever actually get it put down on paper. Taking a long break from the bimonthly series to complete it was one risk. Dark Horse was none too happy about that. But another risk, and the more substantial in my mind, was the risk of turning away readers by completely turning the tone of the book they had come to enjoy on its head. But more often than not, when it has come to my work, if I followed my heart, it was the right way to go. The week the book was released I had to amp myself up a little bit to check my e-mail. Waiting for the inevitable "Who do you think you are? A real writer? Go back to makin' with the funny poop jokes, retard!" But, much to my surprise, I started getting some positive e-mail. And then lots of positive e-mail. And then some positive reviews. And then some critics were calling it one of the best graphic novels of the year. And then I got a couple of Eisner Awards for it. Who knew? So now I can go back to making my poop-joke books and mowing my lawn with a smug sense of pretension. And everyone knows that to be truly successful, you have to be twice as pretentious as you are talented.

Thanks for reading my bull[redacted].

Sincerely,
Eric Powell

This Ain't Funny.

GET OVER THERE AND GET THAT GEEK TENT UP!

STOP DRAGGIN' YOUR ASSES OR WE AIN'T NEVER GONNA BE READY BEFORE THOSE CLODBUSTIN' HAYSEEDS COME ROLLIN' IN!

REST ROOMS
TRADING POST
OIL • GAS • FOOD
Fishing TACKLE
MOTOR OIL
SANDWI
POP 5¢

NO CREDIT

REX McCONROY
THE Fighting Cowboy
CAP PISTOL!
25¢
CHECKERS
5¢
TOYS

REX McCONROY
THE FIGHTING COWBOY

CAP PISTOL!

25¢

1¢ 1¢

PEEP SHOW

STOP, YOU DASTARDLY SIDEWINDER, BEFORE I FILL YOU FULLA LEAD!

TWO HEADED PIG!!

HORSE-THIEVIN' COYOTE!

SNAP! SNAP! SNAP!

OH! GOON, BABY! SLOW DOWN!

YOU KNOW HERSHEL COULD USE SOME HELP WITH THE... WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THERE?

A REX MCCONROY THE REAL FIGHTING COWBOY CAP PISTOL, AUNT KIZZIE.

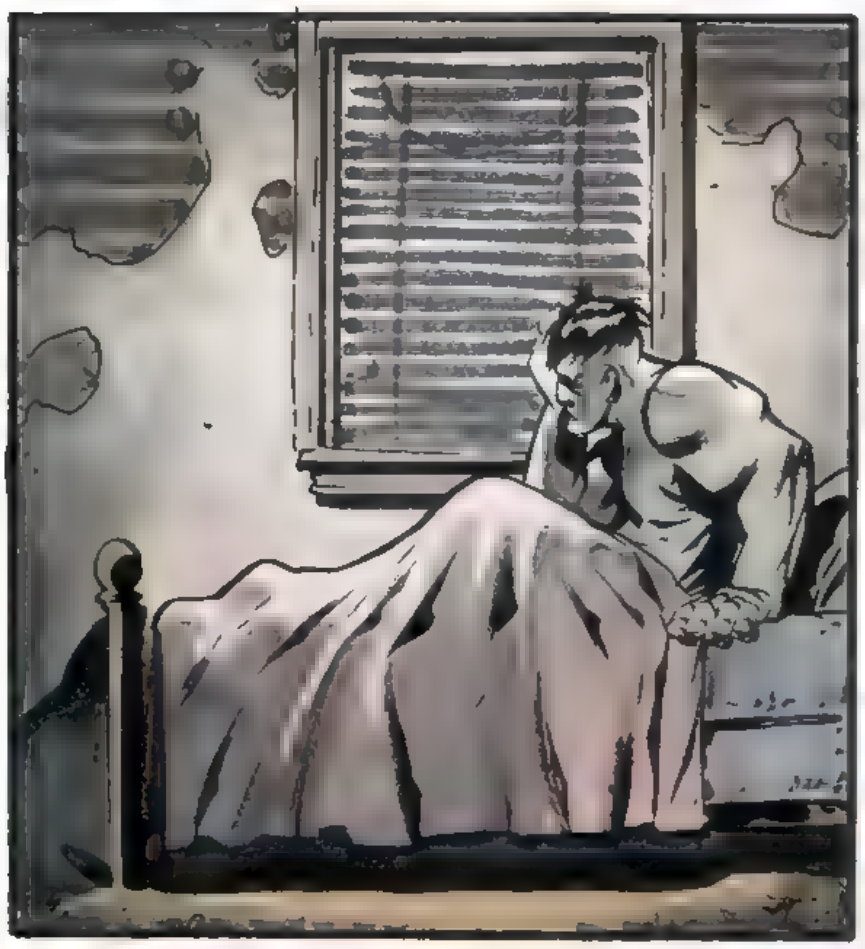
BABY, WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?

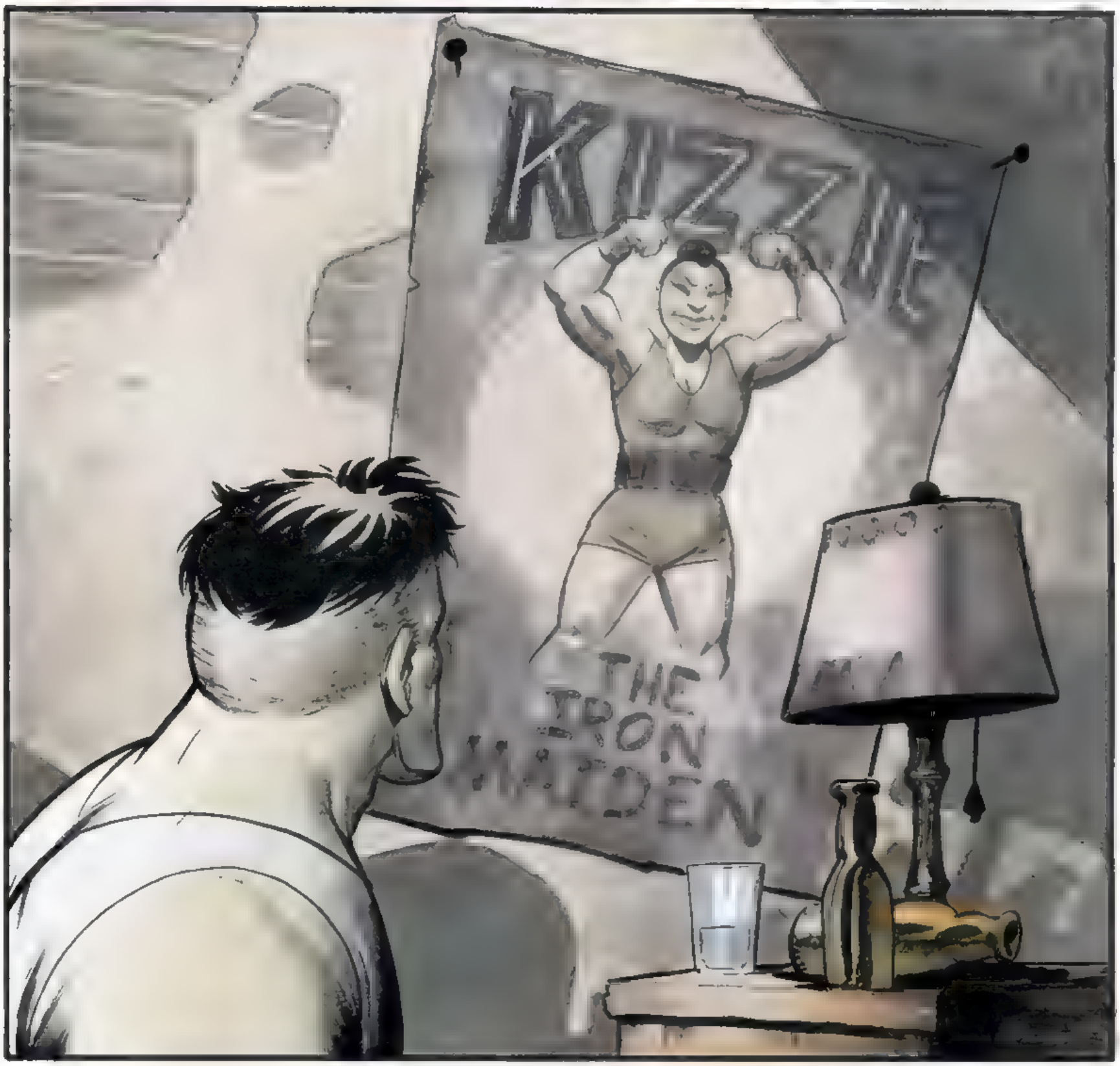
YOU'RE MARCHING RIGHT BACK DOWN THERE AND MAKING RIGHT WHAT YOU DONE! YOUR MOMMA AND DADDY MAY BE GOOD FOR NOTHINGS, AND WE MAY BE JUST POOR CARNY FOLK, BUT I AM NOT RAISING A THIEF!

I AM GOING TO TURN YOU INTO A PROPER MAN IF IT'S THE ONLY THING I ACCOMPLISH IN MY MISERABLE LIFE.

YOU WILL NOT BE A CRIMINAL! NOT AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE!

"NOT AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE!"




KIZZIE
THE IRON MAIDEN

HAIL TO THE WINDS. EAST. NORTH. SOUTH. WEST.

HAIL TO THE ONE WHO WALKS BEHIND THE RIVER. HAIL TO THE MISSIONARY OF SERPENTS. HAIL TO THE CONSORT OF STONE. HAIL TO THE BRINGER OF ABUNDANCE.

SPIRITS OF THE EARTH, MAY THY FRUITS MULTIPLY AND NEVER WITHER.

HEAR THE FEEBLE CRY OF YOUR SERVANT. I PAY HOMAGE TO YOU.

I PAY HOMAGE IN BLOOD.

SET ME APART FROM THOSE THAT WOULD SUBDUE ME. SET ME APART WITH THORN AND FLAME.

WE GOT TWO TRUCKS FULLA BOOTLEG WHISKEY COMIN' IN ON TUESDAY, MERLE HAS SOME STOLEN SHOTGUNS HE WANTED TO KNOW IF WE COULD MOVE FOR HIM, AND THE UNION BOSSES WANT TO KNOW WHAT WE WANT DONE ABOUT THAT CEMENT ISSUE.

OH, YEAH, AND NICKY FIN AND TIPSY KILIGAN GET OUTTA THE JOINT TOMORROW.

GONNA CAUSE TROUBLE YOU THINK?

PROBABLY TRY. IF THEY WERE SMART THEY WOULD BEAT IT OUTTA HERE AND SET UP SHOP IN SOME OTHER BURG.

UNFORTUNATELY, THEY ARE AS MEAN AS THEY ARE DUMB AND THEY'RE PRETTY DAMN DUMB.

YA KNOW, IF THOSE BOYS HAD HALF A BRAIN BETWEEN 'EM, THEY MIGHT BE TROUBLE.

CHILL IN THE AIR
THAT STEALS MY BREATH
A SCENT IN THE WIND
OF ROSES AND DEATH
MOURNER PASSING
SWAYING TREE IN A STORM
DIRGE OF SWOONING
GAUNT SHAPELESS FORM
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN
BUT I COULDN'T SEE
THAT COLD-HEARTED MAN
HAD NO NEED FOR ME
MY BABY HAS NO SOUL
HE IS DEAD TO ME

KINDLY BOY BROKEN
IN SIN AND REGRET
BLACK-HEARTED BASTARD
SINCE FIRST WE MET

HE SAID HE WOULD LOVE ME
IF HE KNEW WHAT IT MEANT
EMPTY SHELL OF A MAN
SO TWISTED AND BENT

I COULD MOVE ON
IF HE WOULD JUST LET ME BE
COLD LOVELESS STARE
UNFEELING EYES THAT FREEZE

MY BABY HAS NO SOUL
HE IS DEAD TO ME

SINISTER THOUGHTS
SINISTER DEEDS
WILL HE REGRET SOWING
BITTER FRUITLESS SEEDS

LOVE IS A STRANGE
AND VIOLENT THING
PROMISES OF HOPE
YET SORROW IT BRINGS

SOME CALL IT MURDER
I CALL IT FREE

MY BABY HAS NO SOUL
HE IS DEAD TO ME

WOO!
WOO!
YEAH!
WOO-HOO!

THANKS, FELLAS! AND HOW ABOUT A HAND FOR MY BROTHER, SKINNY, ON THE PIANO!

NEXT SHOW'S AT EIGHT!

SAY, MIRNA.

YES?

I... I JUST WANTED TA SAY I'M SORRY FOR GIVIN' YA THE COLD SHOULDER. IT'S JUST THAT I THOUGHT--

YOU THOUGHT THAT I COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE INTERESTED IN A MAN FOR HIS HEART AND NOT HIS MUG? THAT I WAS A CHEAP FLOOZY THAT JUST WANTED TO USE YOU SOMEHOW?

DON'T WORRY YOURSELF. I FORGIVE YOU FOR THINKING I'M A SHALLOW DECEITFUL WHORE.

BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER. YOU WERE RIGHT. I WASN'T SHOOTING STRAIGHT. I ONLY CAME ON TO YOU OUT OF PITY.

NOW GO BACK IN THE BAR AND FEEL SORRY FOR YOURSELF OVER A BOTTLE. IT'S WHAT YOU'RE BEST AT!

SOME YEARS AGO IN CHINATOWN...

DON'T BE SHOOTIN' YER MOUTH OFF IS ALL I'M SAYIN'!

OKAY, OKAY! BUT WHAT'S THIS SIT-DOWN WITH THIS XIANG YAO CHARACTER GOT YOU SO WORKED UP ABOUT?!

THESE TRIAD FELLAS AIN'T TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. I DON'T WANT TA HAVE TA TANGLE WITH 'EM IF I CAN HELP IT.

HEY, WHAT'S WITH YOU?
NOTHIN'. JUST THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE.
C'MON, WE'RE GONNA BE LATE.

WE GOT AN APPOINTMENT.

LABRAZIO'S NEGOTIATOR.

GOON, YOUR REPUTATION PRECEDES YOU. BUT I TAKE ISSUE WITH LABRAZIO'S REFUSAL TO MEET WITH ME HIMSELF.

LABRAZIO MEANS NO DISRESPECT, XIANG YAO. THERE ARE MANY WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIM DEAD. AS I'M SURE THERE ARE AS MANY WHO WOULD LIKE THE SAME FOR YOU.

HIS ABSENCE IS DISCRETION, NOT CONTEMPT.

VERY WELL, I WILL FORGIVE IT. BUT ARE YOU GRANTED PERMISSION TO SPEAK ON HIS BEHALF?

I AM.

I SEE. AS YOU KNOW, MY ORGANIZATION HAS ENJOYED THE FRUITS OF THIS NEW WORLD, BUT WE HAVE BEEN HEMMED INTO A SMALL SPACE UNFAIRLY. WE NEED MORE ROOM.

LABRAZIO'S CONTROL OVER THE DOCKS HAS HINDERED OUR IMPORTING INTERESTS. I FORESEE THIS LEADING TO CONFLICT. CONFLICT IS UNHEALTHY FOR BUSINESS.

WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO WORK OUT A DEAL. WHAT'S YOUR OFFER?

I OFFER NOTHING BUT THE OPPORTUNITY TO AVOID POINTLESS CONFLICT. NOTHING MORE. LABRAZIO WILL GIVE ME FREE ACCESS TO THE SHIPPING PORTS. HE DOES NOT WANT TO MAKE AN ENEMY OF ME AND FORCE MY HAND.

AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LABRAZIO FAMILY... GO SCREW!

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN KING FISH OVER-SEAS, BUT OVER HERE YOU AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT ANOTHER TWO-BIT OPIUM-PEDDLIN' PIMP!

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

YOU ARE VERY AMUSING, WESTERNER!

WE'LL SEE HOW AMUSING IT IS IF YOU KEEP TRYING TO DEAL WITH US IN THREATS!

LORD?

LET HIM GO. WE WILL NOT MOVE ON THEM YET.

KNock!
KNock!
KNock!

YEAH, WHATTA YA WANT?

MY NAME IS ISABELLA. I WAS LOOKING FOR GOON.

BELLA, IT WAS YOU. I THOUGHT MY EYES WERE PLAYING TRICKS ON ME.

I'M SORRY I DIDN'T ACKNOWLEDGE YOU. IT WAS AN INOPPORTUNE TIME.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN. I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU THE NIGHT OF THE FIRE. THE NIGHT KIZZIE DIED. EVERYONE THOUGHT SOMETHING TERRIBLE MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO YOU. I WAS RELIEVED TO HEAR A FEW YEARS LATER THAT YOU WERE ALIVE. I GUESS THERE ARE WORSE THINGS THAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO YOU THAN WORKING FOR LABRAZIO.

I'M SORRY I DIDN'T SAY NOTHIN' BEFORE I LEFT. I... I JUST HAD TO GET OUTTA THERE.

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU LOOK GREAT! WHY WERE YOU IN CHINATOWN? YOU WORKIN' OUT THERE?

I WORK FOR XIANG YAO. WORK MAY BE THE WRONG WORD.

WHATTA YA MEAN?

MY LIFE HAS BEEN... IT DIDN'T GET MUCH BETTER AFTER THE CARNIVAL, GOON. I'VE DONE SOME STUPID THINGS. GOT MIXED UP WITH THE WRONG PEOPLE. I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM HIM.

BUT HE CAN'T OWN YOU, BELLA! YOU OWE HIM MONEY OR SOMETHIN'?

I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, GOON. IT'S COMPLICATED. I'M INDENTURED TO HIM. THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY. THERE'S NO WAY OUT FOR ME.

YOU NEED ME TO TAKE CARE OF THIS FOR YOU, YOU JUST SAY THE WORD.

NO! IF HE KNEW I HAD COME HERE HE WOULD KILL ME! PLEASE, JUST LEAVE IT ALONE.

BELLA, I WISH YOU WOULD LET ME HELP.

YOU ALWAYS WERE THE SWEETEST THING, GOON.

I REMEMBER HOW YOU ALWAYS USED TO ESCORT ME AROUND. MAKE SURE I WAS OKAY.

ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR ME.

BELLA.

THAT NIGHT WITH YOU... IT... WHAT I MEAN IS, IT WASN'T JUST...

THERE'S BEEN NO ONE ELSE FOR ME. JUST YOU.

TIPSY KILIGAN AND NICKY FIN OUT IN THE WORLD! SEE YOU LOSERS NEXT GO-ROUND! HA! HA! HA!

CADE'S ISLAND PRISON FERRY

[illegible] YOU, SCREW!

SEVEN YEARS WASTED IN THE CLINK BECAUSE OF THE GOON! I'D LIKE TO STICK AN ICE PICK IN THE TOP OF HIS SKULL REAL NICE AND SLOW!

KILIGAN AND FIN. IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU BOYS.

WHO'S THAT?!

WHAT THE HELL'S ALL OVER HIS FACE?!

MY NAME IS MR. WICKER. AND I BELIEVE I MAY HAVE A PROPOSITION THAT WOULD INTEREST YOU GREATLY.

OH, YEAH, AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

WORK FOR ME AND WE'LL TAKE EVERYTHING THE GOON HAS. WE'LL RUN HIM INTO THE GROUND AND LEAVE HIM PEDDLING FOR CHANGE ON A STREET CORNER WITH A PAPER CUP. WE'LL RUIN HIM... BEFORE WE KILL HIM.

SO WHATTA YA SAY?

IT WAS KILIGAN AND FIN, ALL RIGHT. THEY SHOT MY PARTNER, JIMMY, IN THE FACE AND TOOK BOTH THE WHISKEY TRUCKS. SAID THEY WAS GONNA LEAVE ME ALIVE TO GIVE YOU A MESSAGE. SAID I WAS SUPPOSED TO TELL YOU MR. WICKER WAS RUNNIN' THIS TERRITORY NOW. MR. GOON, JIMMY... HE HAD TWO KIDS! THEY OUGHTN'T HAVE DONE HIM LIKE THAT!

I'M SORRY, PETE. HERE, THIS WILL COVER YOUR TRUCKS AND MORE. TELL JIMMY'S WIDOW TO COME SEE ME THE FIRST OF EVERY MONTH. HIS FAMILY WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF. NOW GO HOME AND GET SOME REST.

THANK YOU, MR. GOON.

YOU EVER HEARD OF ANYBODY NAMED WICKER?

NO.

START ASKING AROUND ABOUT THIS WICKER FELLA. SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND OUT.

GET THE MUDD BROTHERS TO START LOOKIN' FOR KILIGAN AND FIN. TELL THEM I WANT 'EM DEAD. TELL 'EM THEY CAN HURT 'EM BEFORE IF THEY WANT.

WILL DO. DON'T FORGET ABOUT THOSE GUNS MERLE HAS COMING IN. NEED TO TAKE CARE OF THAT TONIGHT. WE ALSO NEED TO--

HEY, SKINNY, WHAT HAPPENED TO YA?

THOSE HOOLIGANS ON FIFTH GIVIN' YOU TROUBLE AGAIN? WANT I SHOULD HAVE 'EM SLAPPED AROUND A BIT?

NAH, I JUST KNOCKED A CASE OF GIN ON TOP OF ME WHEN I WAS TRYING TO GET A KEG OUTTA THE BASEMENT. AND IT AIN'T AS BAD AS IT LOOKS, FELLAS.

YOU AND ME BOTH KNOW THAT DIDN'T COME FROM NO CRATE LANDIN' ON YA. WE BEEN PALS SINCE YOU WAS A LITTLE TOOTHPICK OF A KID SWEEPIN' UP THIS JOINT. SOMEBODY TRYIN' TA MUSCLE YA AROUND, YOU KNOW I'M HERE FOR YA.

THANKS, GOON, BUT REALLY, IT AIN'T NOTHIN'.

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING I WAS WANTING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

MY SISTER... SHE'S BEEN AWFUL UPSET LATELY. YOU SEE, OUR MA DIED RECENTLY, AND, WELL, I BEEN WORRIED ABOUT HER. I KNOW SOMETHING HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU TWO. I DON'T KNOW WHAT. BUT LIKE I SAID, SHE'S BEEN AWFUL UPSET.

THAT WAS NOTHIN', SKINNY. I ACTED LIKE A JERK WHEN SHE WAS BEIN' KIND TO ME. I TRIED TO APOLOGIZE.

HMMM, YEAH, SHE'S BEEN KNOWN TO HOLD A GRUDGE.

I'LL TRY TO TALK TO HER AGAIN. DON'T LET IT WORRY YOU, OKAY, BUDDY?

SURE, GOON. THANKS.

BY THE WAY, WHERE THE HELL HAS NORTON BEEN? I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN THREE DAYS.

OH, HIS MOMMA IS SICK. HE'S BEEN TENDING TO HER.

HELLO?! MERLE?!

LOOKY, TIPSY! IT'S THE SON OF A BITCH THAT GOT US PINCHED!

HOW'S TRICKS, GOON?!

TRICKS IS JUST FINE, FELLAS!

NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU, GOON. LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF...

MY NAME IS MR. WICKER.

BEFORE YOU ASK, MERLE ISN'T HERE. SEEMS HE RECEIVED A MESSAGE SAYING YOU WEREN'T INTERESTED. IN WHICH CASE HE SOLD THE GUNS TO THE NEXT HIGHEST BIDDER. THAT JUST HAPPENED TO BE MYSELF.

IS THAT RIGHT?

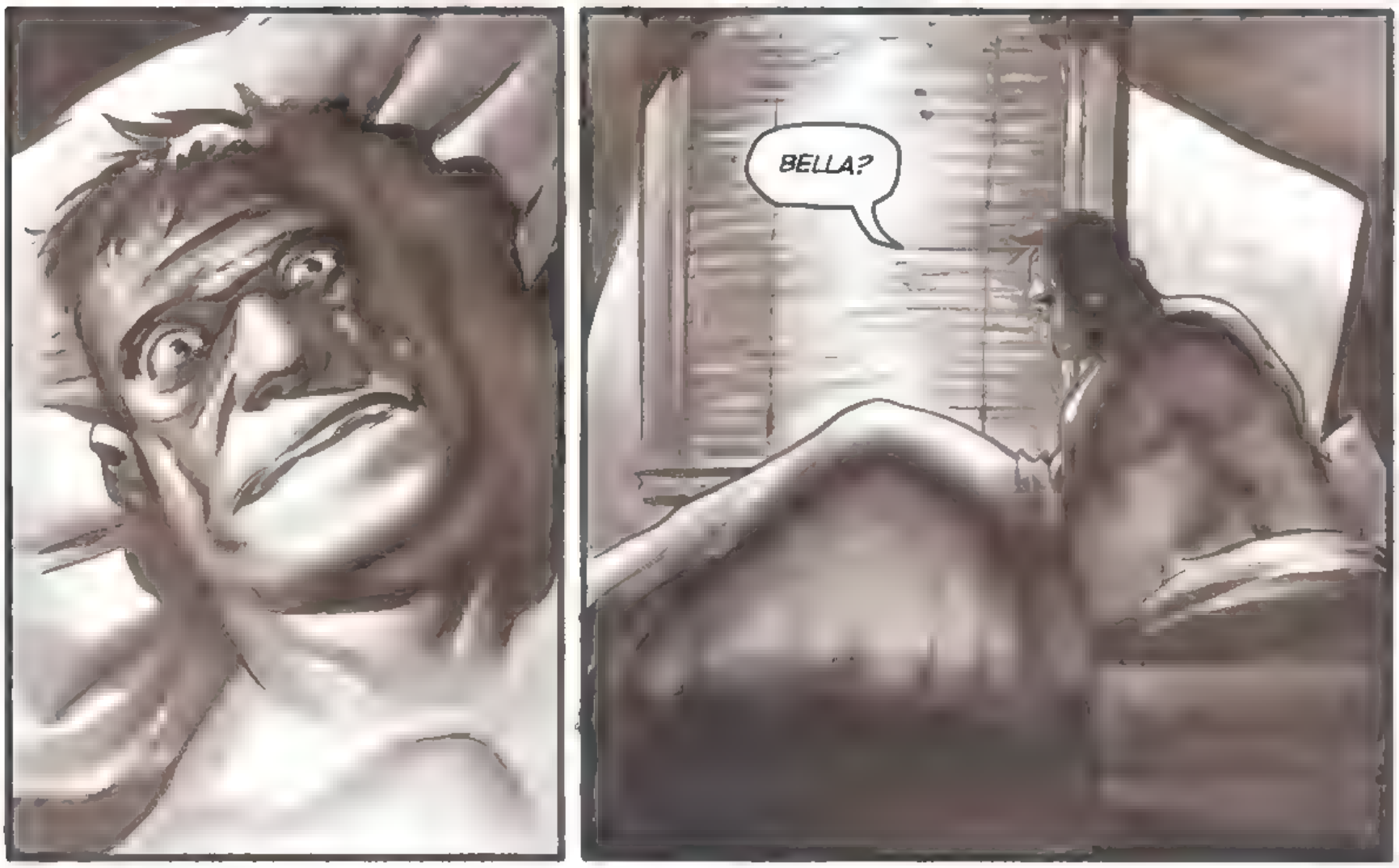
I'M FEELING RATHER DISAPPOINTED RIGHT NOW.

I EXPECTED THIS TO BE HARDER.

NO, LEAVE HIM. I'M NOT DONE PLAYING WITH HIM JUST YET.

HEH, RIGHT!

LET'S BE ON OUR WAY.


BELLA?

YOU'RE KIDDIN'! THAT WAS THE DAME FROM THE CARNIVAL?

YEAH. IT WAS HER.

SHE WAS A REAL LOOKER. SO, UP FOR SOME POKER TONIGHT AT NORTON'S?

WE GOT REAL SNAKESKIN WALLETS, JEWELRY, WATCHES!

THE FINEST HANDMADE WATCHES ON THE EAST COAST!

JERRY! SID! HOW MANY TIMES I GOTTA TELL YA NOT TA PEDDLE YER CRAP ON MY BLOCK!

GOON! WE WAS GONNA PAY TRIBUTE, HONEST WE WAS!

SURE, YOU WAS! BEAT IT BEFORE I TAKE TRIBUTE BY PUTTIN' MY FOOT UP YER ASS!

YES, SIR! WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN, SIR!

HEY, THAT CARNY DAME IS BACK.

I WAS HOPIN' I WOULD SEE YOU AGAIN.

GOON.

PLEASE HELP ME!

I WANNA SEE XIANG YAO!

AH! MY CLOWN IS BACK TO MAKE ME LAUGH! I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU BACK HERE SO SOON.

THE GIRL! ISABELLA! WHAT'S SHE OWE TO YA?!

I HAVE MANY WOMEN. TOO MANY TO BOTHER REMEMBERING THEIR NAMES. BUT ONE OF THEM IS KNOWN TO YOU?

YOU KNOW WHO I'M TALKIN' ABOUT! THE DARK-HAIRED WESTERN GIRL WHOSE FINGER YOU TOOK! WHAT'S SHE OWE YA?!

SHE OWES ME EVERYTHING, MR. GOON. EVERYTHING SHE IS, IS MINE.

ENOUGH WITH THE ROUNDABOUT! HOW MUCH YOU WANT FOR HER?! SHE SAYS YOU HAVE SOME KINDA WITCHCRAFT ON HER WHERE SHE CAN'T LEAVE! I DON'T KNOW IF I'M BUYIN' THAT BUT YOU ARE GONNA LET HER GO!

YOUNG FOOL. YOU HAVE NOTHING I DESIRE. IF SHE LIVES OR DIES IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE TO ME. BUT SEEING HOW SHE IS A TREASURE TO YOU AND YOUR TORMENT AMUSES ME GREATLY, I BELIEVE I WILL KEEP HER.

YOU CAN HAVE THE DOCKS!

WHAT?

CONTROL OF THE SHIPPING IN AND OUT OF TOWN IS YOURS IF YOU GIVE UP THE GIRL!

YOU LIE! LABRAZIO WOULD NEVER ALLOW IT! UNLESS...

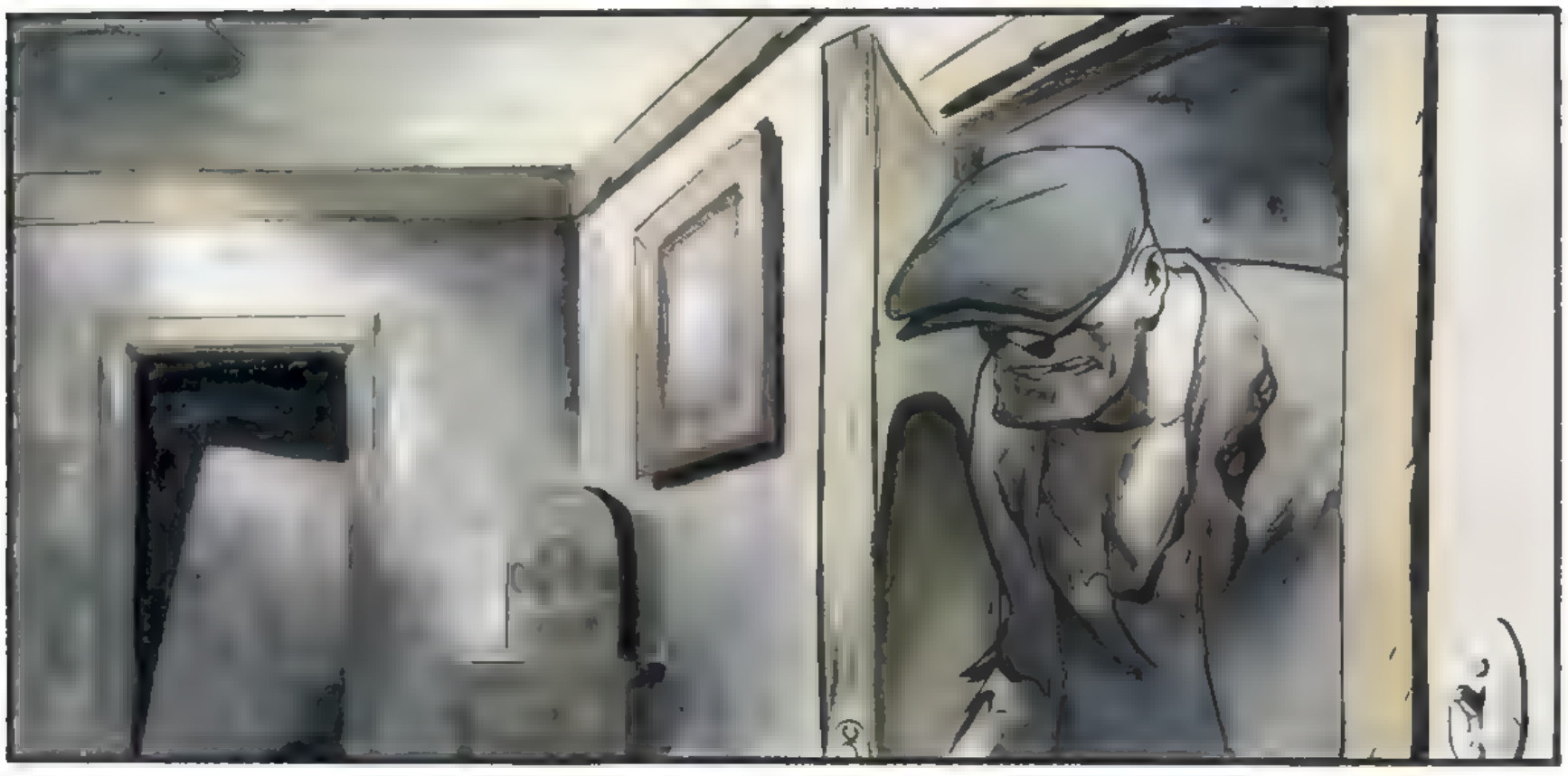
HA! HA! HA!

HOW CLEVER OF YOU! TELL YOUR GHOST WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT!

I RELEASE THE WOMAN!

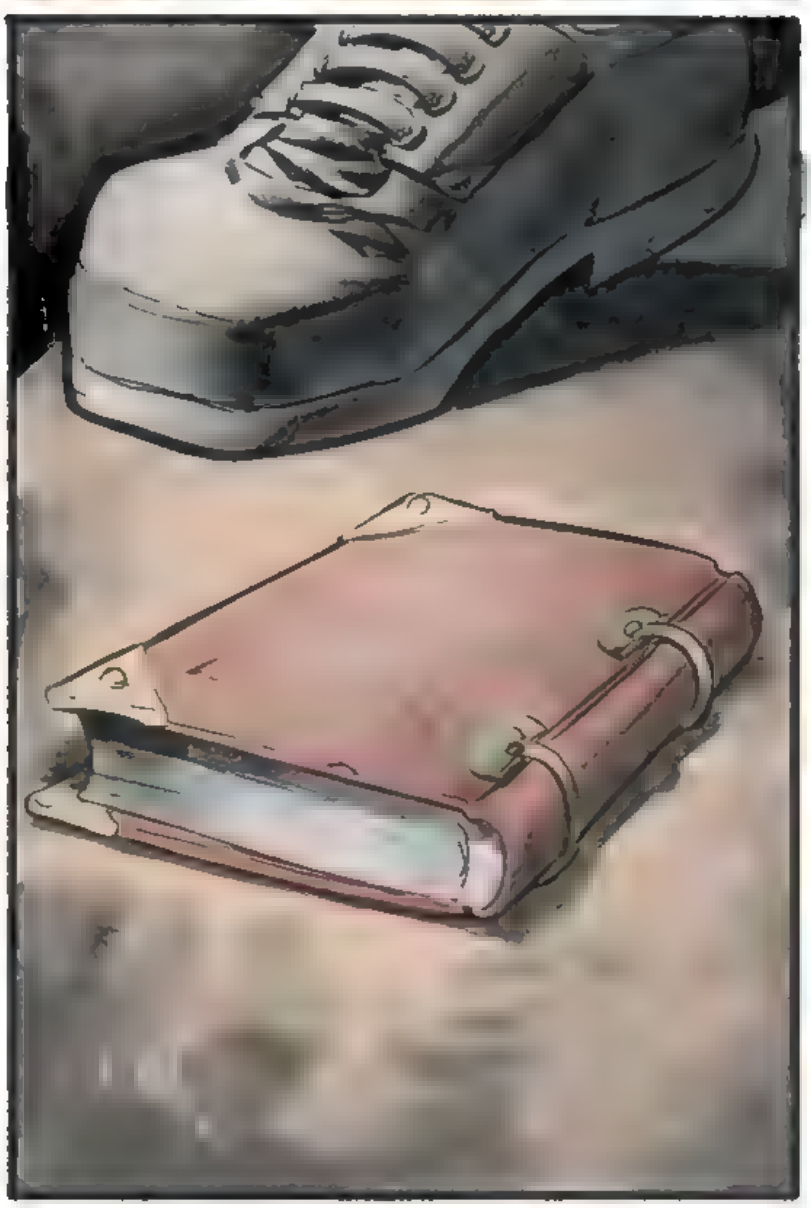
HA! HA! HA! HOW MUCH YOU RELINQUISH FOR A WOMAN!

HA! HA! HA! HA! FOR A WOMAN!



FRANKY?!

WHERE ARE YA?!

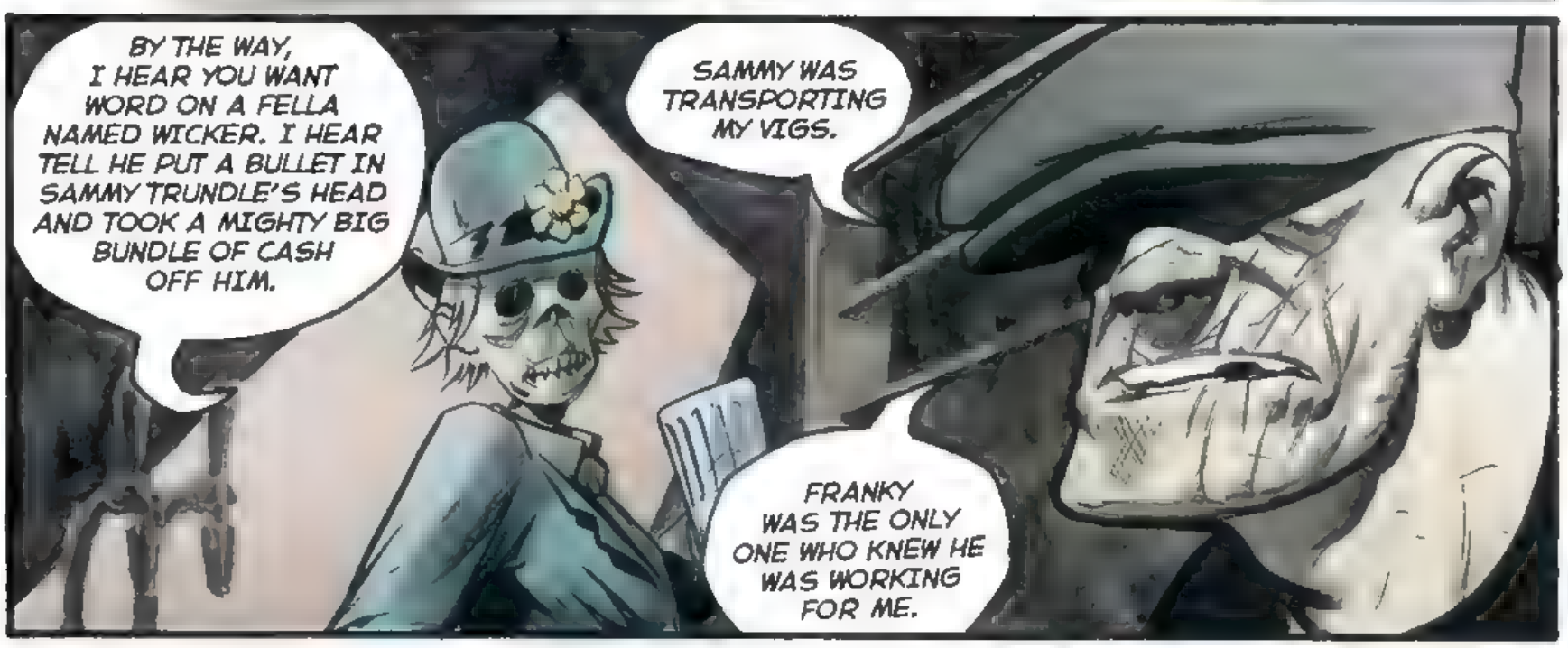


WHAT'S THIS?

NORTON'S
PUB

WILLY, YA SEEN FRANKY ABOUT?
NOPE. HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE YESTERDAY.
JEEZ, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WAIT, WHY THE HELL ARE YOU BEHIND THE BAR?! WHERE ARE NORTON AND SKINNY?!
AIN'T SEEN NORTON. SKINNY CAME IN A FEW HOURS AGO BEAT UP SOMETHING AWFUL. LOOKED WORSE THAN YOU, IN FACT. THEN TOOK OFF IN A TEAR WHEN HIS SISTER CALLED. FIGURED I'D HELP MYSELF.


BY THE WAY, I HEAR YOU WANT WORD ON A FELLA NAMED WICKER. I HEAR TELL HE PUT A BULLET IN SAMMY TRUNDLE'S HEAD AND TOOK A MIGHTY BIG BUNDLE OF CASH OFF HIM.
SAMMY WAS TRANSPORTING MY VIGS.
FRANKY WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW HE WAS WORKING FOR ME.

NORTON, IT'S ME! OPEN UP!

KNock KNock

WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY AREN'T YOU AT THE BAR?

MOMMA IS SICK! GO AWAY!

SLAM!

TICKE

WATCHES! JEWELRY! HAND-SEWN LEATHER WALLETS!
FINEST QUALITY AT HALF THE PRICE!
CRAP! IT'S THE GOON! QUICK, PACK IT UP!
HE'LL BEAT US TO A PULP!
H-HIYA, MR. GOON. W-WE WAS, WE WAS...
HIYA, BOYS.

WATCHES! JEWELRY! HAND-SEWN LEATHER WALLETS!

FINEST QUALITY AT HALF THE PRICE!

HAVE FUN?

HEY, FRANKY. WHAT ARE YA DOIN'?

WHAT AM I DOING? I'M OUT THERE GETTIN' MY ASS KICKED EVERYDAY JUST TRYIN' TO SAVE WHAT LITTLE FACE WE GOT LEFT! THAT'S WHAT I BEEN DOIN' WHILE YOU BEEN PAINTIN' THE TOWN RED WITH THAT DAME FOR THE LAST MONTH!

WE'RE HANGING ONTO OUR TERRITORY BY OUR FINGERNAILS! THE CELESTIALS HAVE CONTROL OF THE DOCKS NOW, THOSE SLACK JAWS ON LONELY STREET ARE MULTIPLYIN', AND EVERY OTHER TWO-BIT WANNABE HOOD IS SMELLIN' THE BLOOD IN THE WATER!

THEY DON'T FEAR YOU ANYMORE! THE BOOGEYMAN OF LABRAZIO'S NAME ISN'T GOING TO DO US ANY GOOD IF THEY DON'T FEAR YOU!

I'M OUT, FRANKY. I LOVE HER. I'M LEAVING THIS TOWN TO START OVER AND I'M TAKING HER WITH ME.

YOU GONNA GO SOFT AND ALL LOVEY DOVEY?! FINE! BUT WHAT ABOUT ME?!!!

I AIN'T GOT NOTHIN'!

THIS AIN'T WHO I'M SUPPOSED TO BE, FRANKY. KIZZIE... SHE WANTED ME TO BE A GOOD MAN. I GOT A CHANCE TO BE HAPPY. TO TURN MY LIFE AROUND.

I'M SORRY.

YOU'RE RIGHT. GET OUT OF HERE. IT'S NO PLACE FOR ANYBODY.

WHISKEY AND KEEP 'EM COMIN'.

SO THEY JOINED UP WITH WICKER TOO, HUH? HAS HAD MEETINGS WITH LABOR BOSSES? THEY KNOW ME... THEY KNOW I AIN'T DONE YET... CHARLEY, YOU TELL THEM IF THEY ARE GONNA FOLLOW SOME NEW DOG'S BARK, THEN THEY BETTER BEWARE OF THE OLD DOG'S BITE!

THIS GUY IS TRYING TO TAKE DOWN EVERYTHING FROM BENEATH ME! KEEP THOSE GUYS IN LINE UNTIL I GET OUT THERE TO TALK TO 'EM!

HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT FRANKY? NO, JUST SEND WORD TO NORTON'S IF YOU DO.

NO, I DON'T THINK HE TURNED ON US!... DON'T LET ME EVER HEAR YOU SAY THAT AGAIN! HE WOULD NEVER DO THAT TO ME!... I DON'T CARE WHAT DARNEL SAYS! JUST BECAUSE THEY GOT THE INSIDE TRACK ON SOME OF OUR OPERATIONS DON'T MEAN IT CAME FROM FRANKY!

LOOK, JUST SEND WORD IF YOU HEAR ABOUT HIM, OKAY?!

KLANG!

GOON!

MOMMA NORTON, WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?!

HE'S BEEN HIDING ME! IF HE KNEW I WERE OUT, HE WOULD KILL ME!

WHO? MOMMA, YOU'RE ILL. LET ME GET YOU BACK HOME.

THE BOOK! FOUND MY BOOK! FULL OF EVIL THINGS! FULL OF EVIL THINGS! I WAS SUPPOSED TO KEEP IT SAFE! IT CAME FROM THE OLD COUNTRY!

YOU MEAN THIS BOOK?

WHERE DID YOU GET IT?!

I FOUND IT AT MY PLACE. WHO TOOK IT FROM YOU, MOMMA?

DESTROY IT! SHOULDN'T HAVE KEPT IT! KILL YOU FOR IT! HURRY!

C'MON. I'M TAKING YOU HOME.

WHERE'D YOUR BOY RUN OFF TOO?

SAID HE WAS... FETCH... A DOCTOR.

DON'T DRINK THE TEA.

IT'S POISON.

SLEEP TIGHT, YOU CRAZY OLD BAT.

THUD!

HERE HE IS FOR YA! ALL TRUSSED UP!

BEEN LOOKIN' FOR YOUR LITTLE BUDDY, GOON?

HERE HE IS.

AND HE PEELS JUST LIKE A POTATO!

AHHHH!

I'M SORRY.

DON'T BE. WE'LL GET OUTTA THIS.

REALLY? YOU'RE GONNA GET OUTTA THIS? I'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW.

MIRNA.

MIRNA, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO YOURSELF?

I KNOW IT'S YOU. YOU DROPPED THE BOOK OF BLACK MAGIC YOU STOLE FROM MOMMA NORTON IN MY PLACE WHEN YOU NABBED FRANKY. THE BOOK YOU USED TO TURN YERSELF INTO THAT THING.

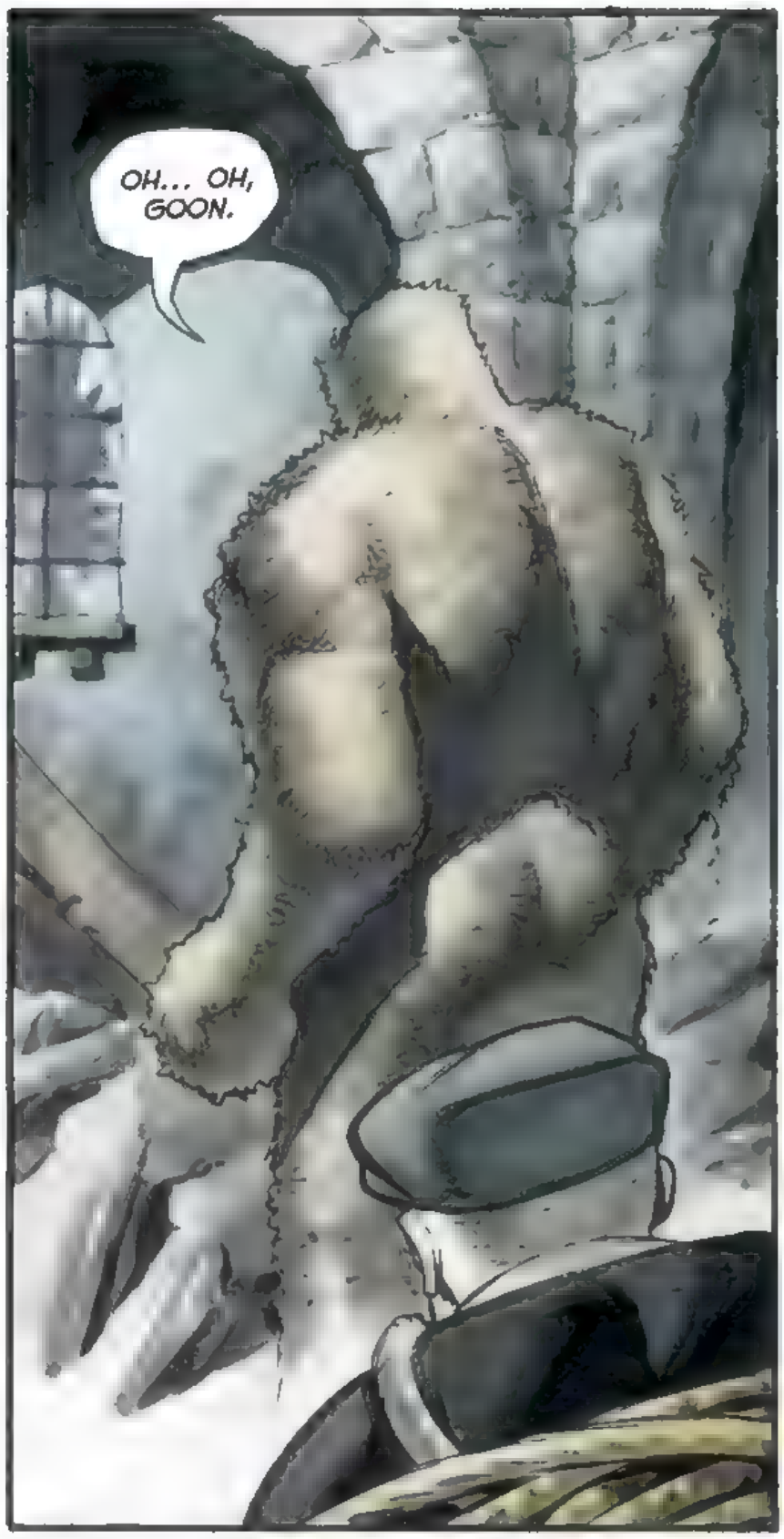
YOU GONE A LITTLE MAD AND YOU BEEN TAKIN' IT OUT ON YER BROTHER. THAT'S WHY HE'S BEEN SO ROUGHED UP. AND YOU'VE BEEN POISONING MOMMA NORTON TO KEEP HER FROM SETTING THE ALARM OFF ON YA.

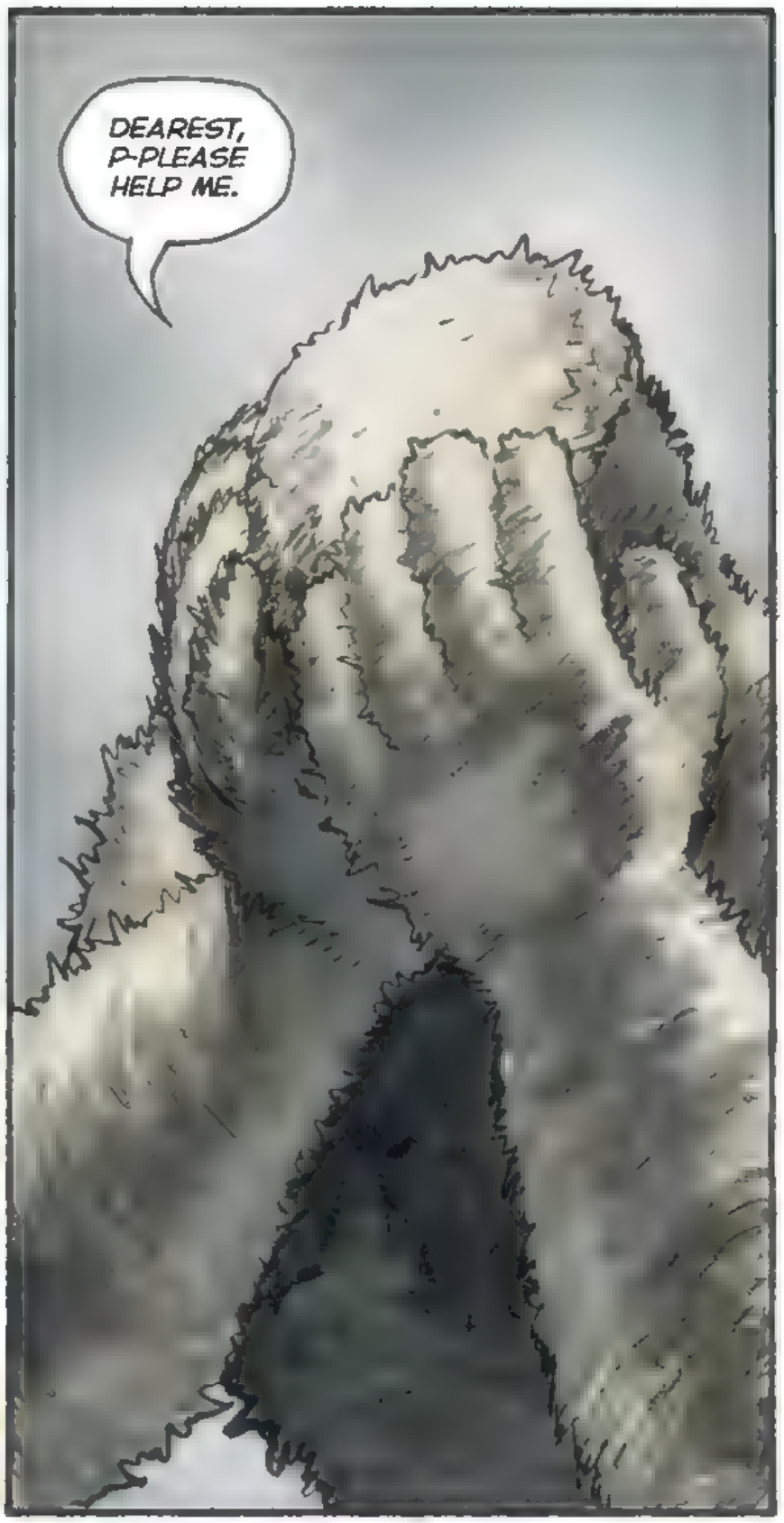
IS THIS BECAUSE OF ME? DO YOU HATE ME SO BAD? I NEVER MEANT TO HURT YOU, MIRNA.

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL. I WAS HURT ONCE, TOO, AND I KNOW HOW IT CAN MAKE YOU DO TERRIBLE THINGS.

BUT YOU'RE BETTER THAN THIS. I KNOW YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON.

PLEASE, LET ME HELP YOU.


OH... OH, GOON.


DEAREST, P-PLEASE HELP ME.

YOU DUMB SON OF A BITCH, I'M NOT MIRNA!

TIPSY, NICKY, WASTE THESE TWO. I'M TIRED OF THEM.

STOP! PLEASE DON'T DO THIS!

WHY SHOULD I STOP, SISTER?! THEY ARE ALL THAT STAND IN MY WAY!

LOOK AT WHAT THIS IS DOING TO YOU! LOOK AT YOUR FACE! YOU'RE NOT A KILLER, SKINNY!

DO YOU THINK I WANT TO LIVE THE REST OF MY LIFE AS A NOBODY?! TO GET HASSLED BY WORTHLESS HOODS THAT DON'T DESERVE TO LICK MY SHOES?! TO SWEEP THE FLOOR OF SOME TWO-BIT GIN JOINT UNTIL I'M AN OLD MAN?!

TO DIE WORTHLESS AND PENNILESS IN THE GUTTER LIKE OUR MOTHER?!

I WON'T LIVE HER LIFE!

SKINNY... I THOUGHT WE WAS--

PALS!

KILL HIM!

KRAK!

MIRNA, UNTIE ME!

PALS?! MISTER BIG-SHOT GOON PALS WITH ME?! YOU TREATED ME LIKE A LAP DOG! YOU WERE NEVER REALLY THERE FOR ME OR MY SISTER!

WE WERE ALWAYS GONNA BE BENEATH YOU!

GONNA DIE, PIPSQUEAK!

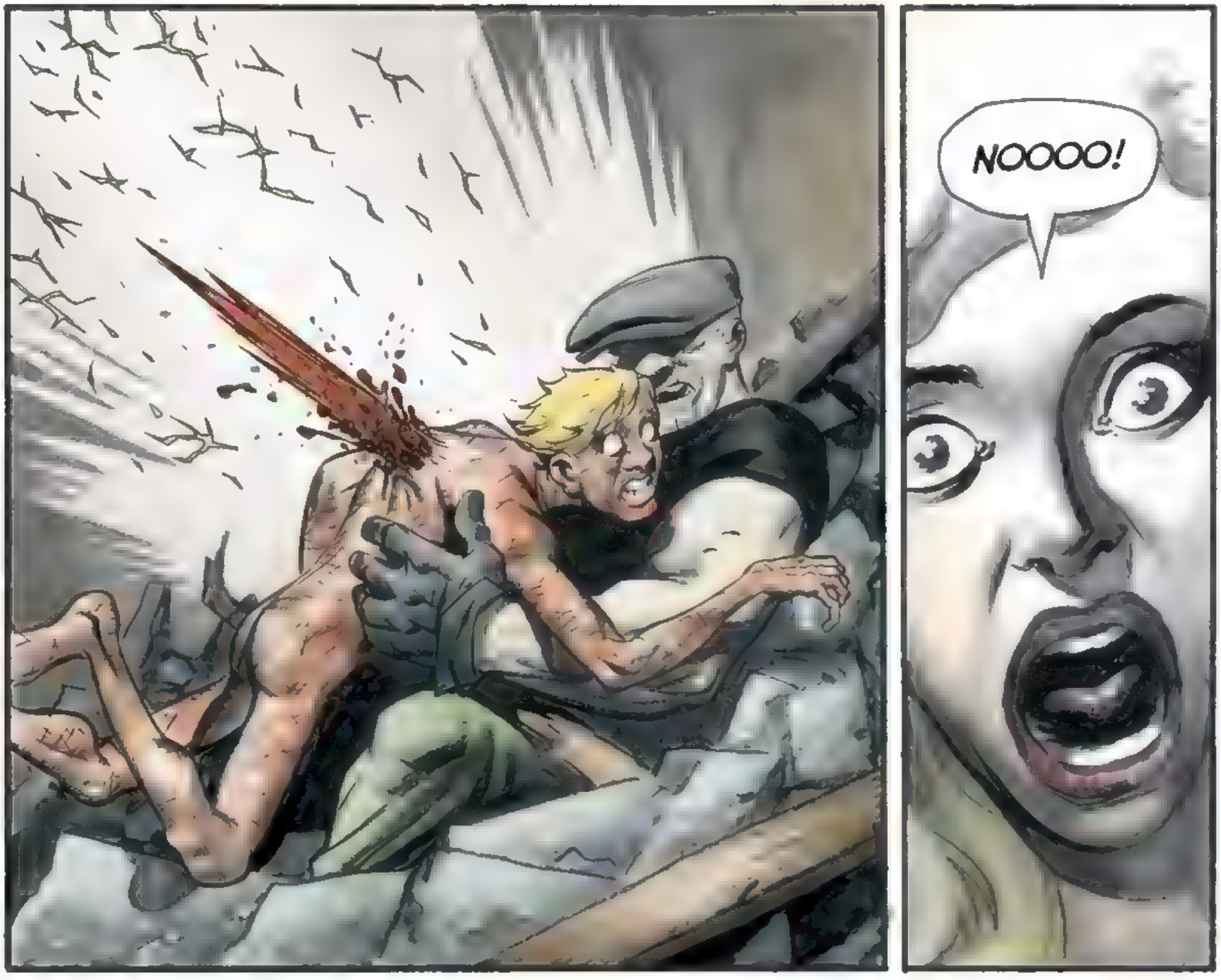
KNIFE TO THE EYE, MOTHER!

SKINNY, STOP THIS NOW BEFORE YOU TAKE IT TOO FAR! I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO HURT YOU!

YOU CAN'T HURT ME! LOOK AT WHAT I HAVE BECOME!

FRANKY, THE BOOK!

I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU!


NOOOO!

I HATE YOU.

SKINNY, WHY?! WHY?!

I HATE TO SEE YOU GO, MIRNA, BUT YOU REMEMBER YOU ALWAYS GOT A JOB AND A HOME HERE WITH US. YOU'RE THE BEST CROONER WE EVER HAD IN THE JOINT.

THANKS, NORTON. I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR MOTHER. SORRY FOR WHAT SKINNY DID TO HER.

SHE'LL BE FINE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER. SHE'S MAKING A QUICK RECOVERY.

I'M GLAD. GOODBYE, NORTON.

MIRNA, PLEASE STAY.

I... DON'T... I'M NOT GOOD WITH WORDS.

STAY? FOR ME? PLEASE?

SLAP

YOU KILLED MY BROTHER, YOU SON OF A BITCH!

SO WHATTA YA SAY WE GO TO THAT FANCY STEAK PLACE UP-TOWN? I FEEL LIKE CELEBRATIN'.

CELEBRATING? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO CELEBRATE, HUN?

MY NEW PLAN!

SEE, I BEEN THINKIN'! I'VE GOT IT ALL LAID OUT! WE'LL MOVE WEST! GET A NICE LITTLE PLACE IN THE COUNTRY! I GOT PLENTY OF DOUGH SAVED UP SO WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT NOTHIN'!

I WAS THINKIN' I'D TRY MY HAND AT DAIRY FARMIN' OR SOMETHIN'! I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' ABOUT COWS BUT, HEY, I'M A QUICK LEARNER AND I GOT A STRONG BACK!

GOON...

OR MAYBE I'LL OPEN UP A LITTLE FIVE AND DIME! WHO KNOWS?! WE CAN DO WHATEVER WE WANT!

GOON...

IT'LL BE GREAT! AS LONG AS WE DON'T GO TOO FAR SOUTH. I LIKE SNOW IN THE WINTER.

GOON, I'M NOT MOVING ANYWHERE WITH YOU.

WHAT?

LOOK... THIS... YOU'RE SWEET AND ALL...

ISABELLA, I WANT TO GIVE YOU A BETTER LIFE. I WANT TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.

I LOVE YOU.

I DON'T WANT YOU.

Dear Goon,

WATCHES! JEWELRY! HAND-SEWN LEATHER WALLETS!
WATCHES! JEWELRY! HAND-SEWN LEATHER WALLETS!

OH, HIYA, GOON! INTEREST YOU IN A SILK HANDKERCHIEF FOR YER LADY FRIEND?

OH! OH, JESUS! Y-YA KILLED JERRY!

YA KILLED HIM!

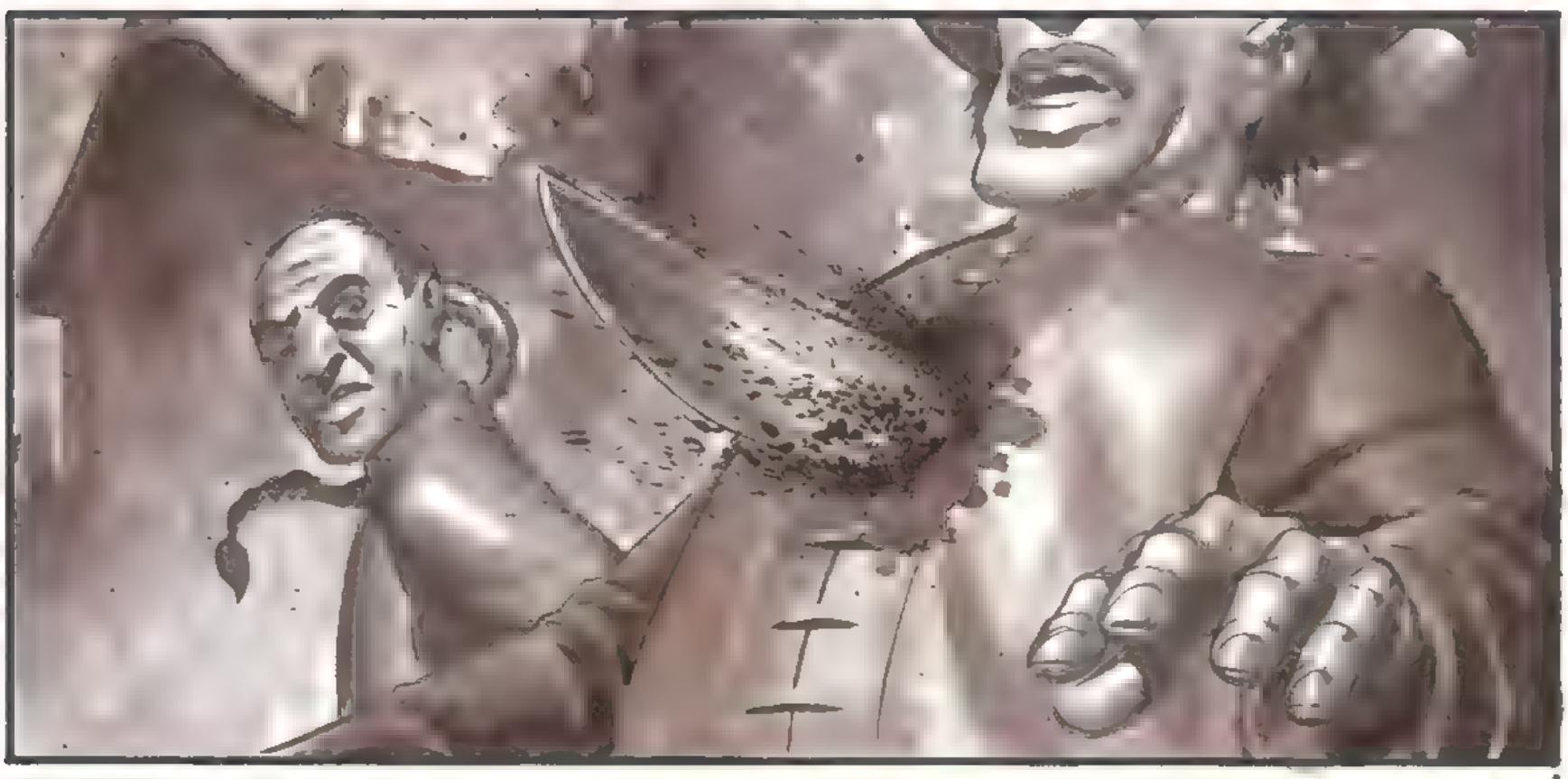
THIS BURG IS MINE! DON'T ANY OF YOU BASTARDS DOUBT IT AGAIN!

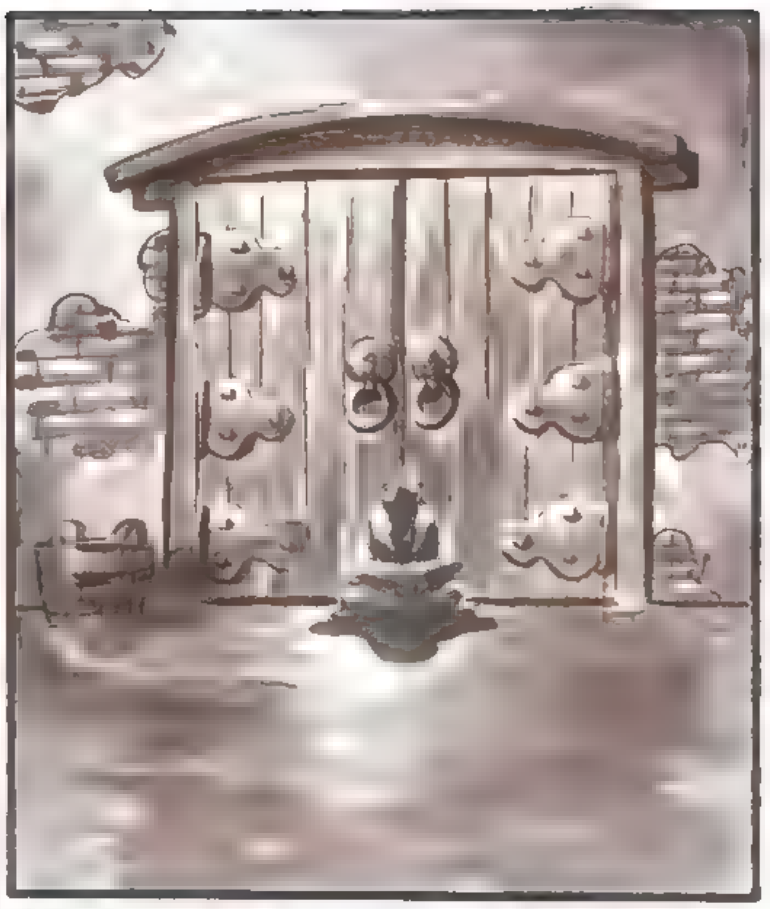
HONEY, LOOK AWAY!

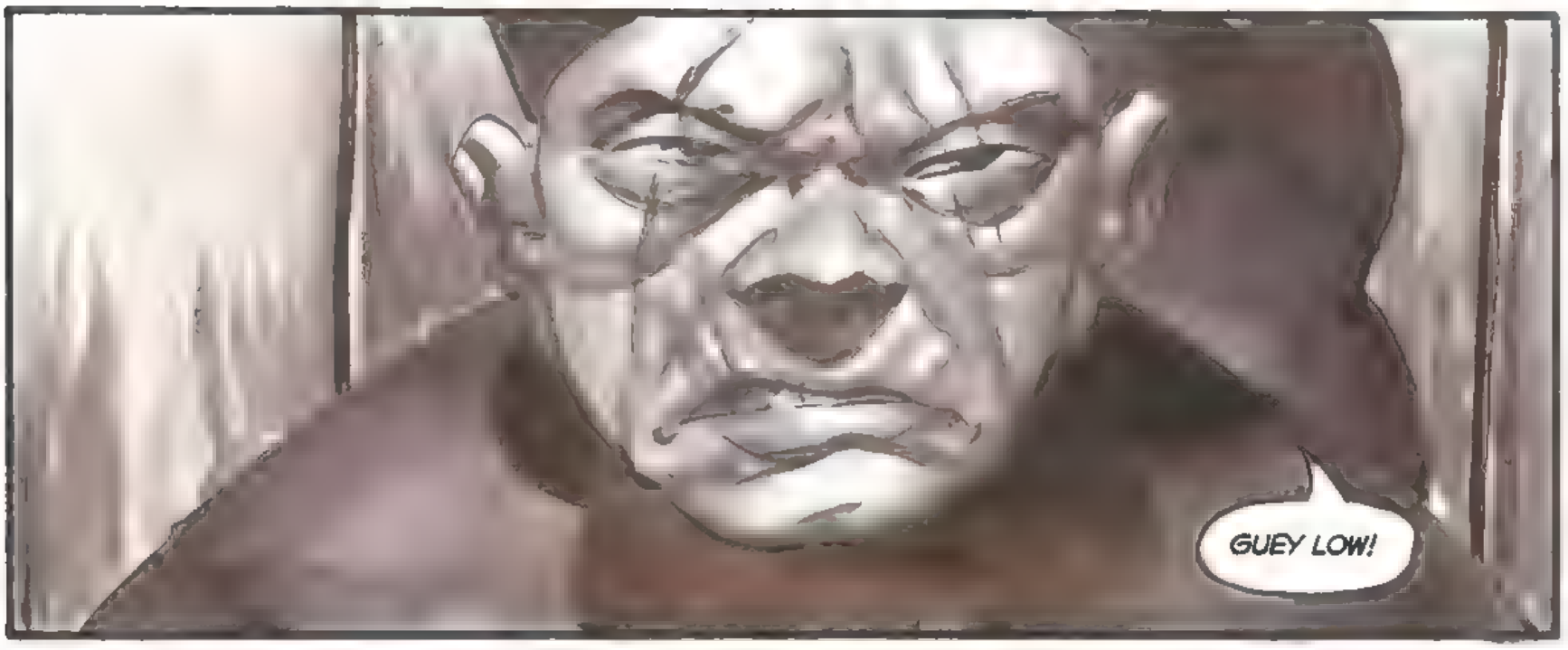
FRANKY, YOU KNOW WE'RE PALS, BUT YOU BEEN RUNNIN' UP ONE HELL OF A TAB.

SHUDDUP, NORDIN, AND BINGME A NUDDER! YA KNOW I GOOD FER IT!

HOLY COW! GOON JUST MURDERED JERRY THE WATCH PEDDLER IN THE STREET!






GUEY LOW!

IMPETUOUS WESTERN YOUTH. LET ME TELL YOU A STORY...

WHAT IS THE PHRASE YOU HAVE? OH, YES, "ONCE UPON A TIME."

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS IN THE LAND OF CHINA A BEAR WHO COULD CHANGE HIS SHAPE. HE ACQUIRED THIS POWER FROM HIS FATHER WHO WAS HIMSELF A GOD. THE BEAR PREFERRED TO WALK THE EARTH AS A HUMAN AND ATTEMPTED TO LIVE THE LIFE OF A MAN. ONE DAY HE FELL MADLY IN LOVE WITH A LOCAL PEASANT GIRL. BUT HE HAD NO MONEY TO WED HER. SO HE TOOK THE COMMISSION OF THE EMPEROR TO BUILD CANALS IN THE LAND OF CHINA KNOWING THAT IN BEAR FORM HE COULD EASILY DIG THE CANAL FAR QUICKER THAN A MAN EVER COULD.

SO HE WAS MARRIED AND BECAME VERY SUCCESSFUL AND POWERFUL AMONGST THE EMPEROR'S SERVANTS. BUT ONE DAY HIS WIFE DISCOVERED SHE WAS WITH CHILD AND SHE WAS SO OVERJOYED THAT SHE RAN TO TELL HER HUSBAND THE NEWS. BUT HE WAS DIGGING A CANAL AS A BEAR AND HE HAD NEVER TOLD HIS WIFE THE SECRET. SHE CAME UPON THE BEAR IN SURPRISE AND SHE WAS SO TERRIFIED OF THE GIANT GOD-BEAR THAT SHE RAN AWAY QUICKLY AND FELL FROM A LARGE HEIGHT. THE WIFE DIED WITH THE UNBORN CHILD. THE GOD-BEAR WAS SO SORROWFUL AND ANGRY THAT HE THREW DOWN MOUNTAINS AND DAMNED RIVERS AND LAID WASTE TO ALL THE LAND AROUND HIM. FINALLY IN HIS WRATH HE CAME TO THE SEA AND TRIED TO SWALLOW IT SO IT WOULD BE NO MORE. BUT HE ONLY SUCCEEDED IN DROWNING HIMSELF AND THEN HE TOO WAS NO MORE.

INTERESTING STORY, ISN'T IT?
BUT ON TO OTHER MATTERS. YOU HAVE COME TO SLAY ME, HAVE YOU? MUCH MIGHTIER THAN YOU HAVE FAILED IN THAT TASK.
BUT PLEASE DO TRY. I SO DESIRE TO TASTE YOUR FLESH, LITTLE DROWNING BEAR!
DIE!!

IGNORANT FOOL!
YOU DARE TO CHALLENGE A GOD!

AH!
YOU SHALL SUFFER LONG BEFORE YOUR END!

MY LITTLE CLOWN. LESS BRASH YOU SEEM NOW. YOUR PAIN SMELLS OF CINDER AND TEARS. A DIVINE AROMA.

ALL THIS AGONY FOR A WOMAN. HOW WEAK YOU TRULY ARE.

TRAGEDY LENDS THE MEAT SUCH A SWEET FLAVOR. I SHALL ENJOY YOUR FLESH TONIGHT!

GOON, I'M HERE, BUDDY. I'LL GET YOU OUTTA HERE!

THAT IT, DOLL?

YES, JUST THIS LAST TRUNK.

BELLA!

HE'S IN THE HOSPITAL ALL BANGED UP AND YER JUST LEAVING?!

I HAVE THIS JOB OFFER DANCING IN--

YOU'RE JUST LEAVING?!

Y-YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...

THIS GUY HASSLIN' YOU, BABY?

THUNK!

AH!!! OH, JESUS! MY HAND!

I WASN'T SPEAKING TO YOU!

WELL?!

IT'S NOT...

I DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN MYSELF TO YOU.

IF YOU EVER STEP FOOT IN THIS TOWN AGAIN...

...I WILL KILL YOU.

Guun

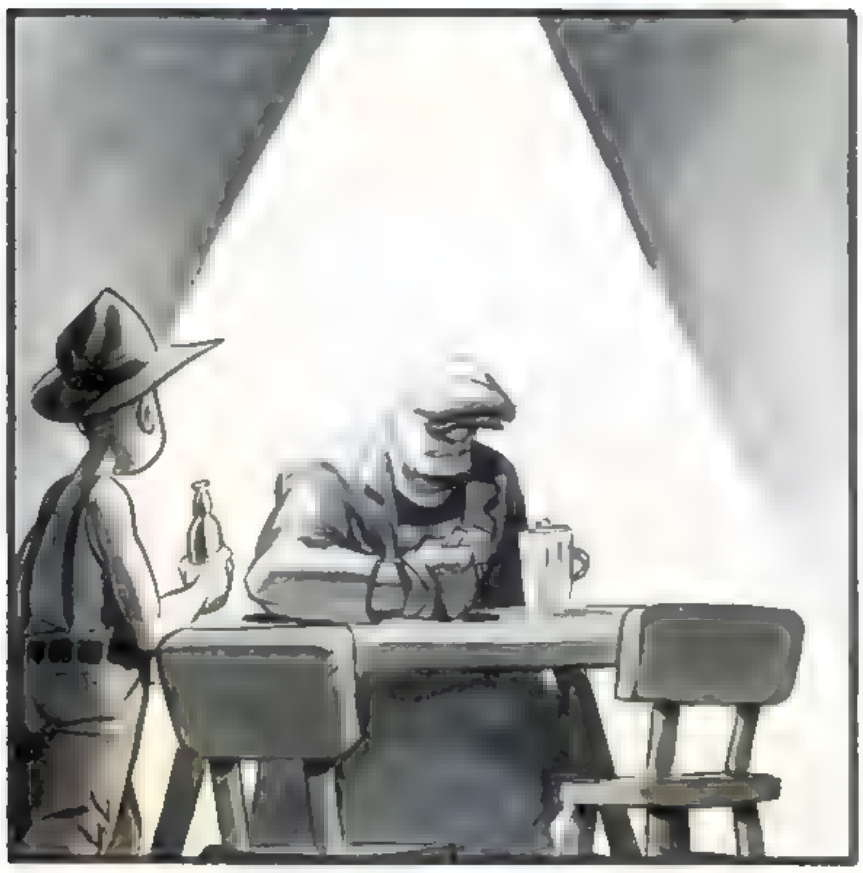
HOSPITAL

DOC, HOW IS HE?

I'M NOT SURE IF WE'LL BE ABLE TO SAVE HIS LEFT EYE AND HE'S IN A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF PAIN, BUT HE'LL LIVE.

HEY, BUDDY. NORTON SENT A BOTTLE. I SNUCK IT PAST THE DOCS.

ISABELLA... SHE, UH, LIT OUT. DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE WENT.
LISTEN, I'M GONNA TAKE CARE OF YA WHILE YER LAID UP IN THIS JOINT, HEAR ME?
WE'RE PALS, YOU GOT IT?!
DAMES COME AND GO, BUT PALS STICK!



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